

Sensibility



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\$4⁰⁰

GENDER MYTH #1

Although male-to-female transsexuals have surgery to change their anatomy and take female hormones, they still act like men.

FACT: Some male-to-female transsexuals act in ways many consider to be masculine; some don't. The same can be said of nontranssexual women. In fact, some types of "masculine" behavior in nontranssexual women are applauded in the lesbian and women's communities, while the same behavior in a transsexual woman is taken as proof that she is "really" a man. Labeling behaviors as masculine and feminine is of little practical value and only reinforces gender stereotypes.

GENDER MYTH #2

Male-to-female transsexuals are not women-born women (or womyn-born womyn).

FACT: No one is born a woman. Most of us who ended up as women started out as girls. The paths we took to womanhood are many and varied. Most male-to-female transsexuals felt like girls from as early as they can remember, just like most nontranssexual women. Although many nontranssexual women struggle with the changes associated with becoming women, most become women without consciously attempting to. This fact doesn't make our paths any better, more natural, or more valid than transsexual women's paths.

GENDER MYTH #3

Male-to-female transsexuals have been socialized as men, and this socialization cannot be changed.

FACT: The messages given to each person about the roles of males and females in society are a little different, and these messages may be experienced in very different ways. Many transsexual women felt that the male messages they were given were inappropriate. Many felt inadequate to meet the demands placed on them to "act like a man." Nontranssexual women feel they have a choice to become aware of and reject parts of their sex-role conditioning—so do transsexual women.

GENDER MYTH #4

Male-to-female transsexuals are trying to "pass" as women. They try to make themselves as much like nontranssexual women as possible.

FACT: Male-to-female transsexuals are women; they don't need to pass. They don't necessarily want to hide or eliminate their differences from nontranssexual women, although the threat of ostracism leads many to do so. Some transsexuals are proud of their particular route to womanhood, feel that they have learned a lot from the journey they have taken, and value the unique qualities they bring to the women's community.

GENDER MYTH #5

Transsexuals take jobs away from other women because they had access to better training when they were men.

FACT: By making the transition from male to female and staying at the same job, some transsexuals have forced employers to change rules restricting women's positions and salaries, thus opening doors for other women. Many transsexual women seek out qualified women to hire. Furthermore, by holding jobs not traditionally thought of as appropriate for women, these transsexual women bring the message to the general public that women are capable of performing "men's" jobs.

GENDER MYTH #6

To lessen the power of patriarchy in our lives, we must purge our community of everything male, including women who once had male anatomy.

FACT: By emphasizing the distinction between male and female, we reinforce the idea that there are exactly two distinct sexes. This is the very concept that permits sexism to exist, because discrimination would be impossible if women were not readily distinguishable from men. If we wish to deflate the power of the patriarchy, the most effective thing we can do is encourage the blurring of gender lines and expand our thinking beyond the male-female dualism.

GENDER MYTH #7

Most women can easily prove they are not male-to-female transsexuals, if they are challenged to do so.

FACT: There is no simple way to prove you are not a transsexual. There are no apparent physical characteristics nontranssexual women have or lack that distinguish them absolutely from transsexual women. Birth certificates and other documents show an "F" for both. Chromosome tests may reveal an XY pattern for a nontranssexual woman. Hormone levels do not distinguish transsexuals from nontranssexuals. Even inspection of the genitals may not provide definitive proof of your gender history.

GENDER MYTH #8

Male-to-female transsexuals have been raised as boys, have never been oppressed as women, and cannot understand women's oppression.

FACT: Some male-to-female transsexuals were raised as girls for portions of their lives, appeared to the world as girls, and were treated like girls. Some were beaten and raped both by outsiders and by their own family members because of their belief that they were girls or their desire to become girls. For most, the difference in the way they were treated when they appeared as men and after they began appearing as women brought sexism into sharp focus.

GENDER MYTH #9

Women's space is not "safe" space if male-to-female transsexuals are allowed.

FACT: Women's space is not safe whenever anyone in it behaves in threatening or disrespectful ways toward another. Transsexuals are no more likely to behave this way than nontranssexuals. We should exclude individuals who behave badly rather than exclude an entire group because some of its members act in offensive ways—any group could be excluded on this basis. Most importantly, women must take responsibility for their own feelings of being unsafe when others are *not* acting in threatening ways.

GENDER MYTH #10

Transsexuals have surgery so they can have sex the way they want to.

FACT: How or with whom a person wants to have sex is rarely a major factor in the desire for sex reassignment. Usually, people undergo reassignment in order to make their bodies conform more closely to the way they feel inside—their gender. Whether a transsexual is attracted to men or to women usually doesn't change with surgery. Although no figures are available, probably a third of transsexual women are straight, one third bisexual, and one third lesbian. Sexual orientation is not related to gender identity.

GENDER MYTH #11

Male-to-female transsexuals are trying to take over the lesbian community.

FACT: Most transsexuals who identify as lesbians are focused on their own personal growth and happiness—just like most nontranssexual lesbians. Those who feel strongly about their right to participate in women-only events may become activists for their cause and hope to influence the lesbian community. On the other hand, being overly sensitive to issues of power and wanting to avoid controversy, many transsexuals repeatedly decline to take leadership positions and abstain from participating in decision-making votes.

GENDER MYTH #12

The sex assigned to a person at birth is that person's "real" sex.

FACT: Sex is assigned at birth on the basis of a cursory glance at the baby's genitalia. In about 5% of births, there is some ambiguity in the sexual organs, and mistakes can be made. In other cases, internal genitalia, chromosome patterns, hormone production, and secondary sex characteristics that develop later may be at variance with the person's external anatomy. Sex is arbitrarily assigned by the patriarchal medical system, and there is no reason to assume that it is any more correct or real than what a person experiences.

GENDER MYTH #13

The lesbian and women's communities have nothing to gain by including transsexuals.

FACT: Transsexual women bring many valuable qualities to the women's community. They bring skills usually taught only to men into the women's community and pass them on to other women. Many are active feminists, increase opportunities for women, and seek to hire and promote women. Those who have made it through transition must have intelligence, persistence, and a sense of humor. Many also bring a spirituality that has been possessed historically by cross-gendered members of various cultures.

GENDER MYTH #16

Male-to-female transsexuals are considered men until they have sexchange surgery.

FACT: Although male-to-female transsexuals appear as men during some part of their lives, most never consider themselves men. They have felt like females for their entire lives. The change from male to female is a change in external appearance of sex-related characteristics, not a change in gender (how a person feels inside). This transition takes place over a period of several years, and sex-reassignment surgery is only one part of it, together with living as a woman, taking hormones, and resocialization.

GENDER MYTH #19

A person's "true" sex can be determined by chromosome testing.

FACT: Although most persons identified as male at birth have XY chromosomes and most of those identified as female have XX, there are many variations that can occur. Some "women-born women" have XY chromosomes, a fact that may be discovered only when they are tested to qualify for athletic competition. Other patterns, such as XXY, XYY, and XXX (no, this does not make you an amazon) can also exist. Some individuals have what is called mosaicism, in which some percentage of cells have an XY pattern and the remainder have XX.

GENDER MYTH #22

Now that Festival policy has been made clear, there are no transsexuals at Michigan.

FACT: Festival policy is far from clear. The brochure states that the Festival is for "womyn-born womyn." Many transsexuals include themselves in that category. While some transsexuals have no desire to participate if they know they are unwelcome, others are here and will continue to come because they have a right to be at any event open to women. No statement has been issued about whether female-to-male transsexuals are welcome at the Festival.

GENDER MYTH #14

Nontranssexual women have the right to decide whether transsexuals should be included in the women's community.

FACT: Each individual has a right to claim her own identity. While being adamant about having this right for themselves, some members of the women's community would deny it to others. Just as each woman must come to her own conclusion about whether she is a lesbian, each must know her own truth about being a woman. Transsexuals can and do include themselves in the women's community and the lesbian community without permission from nontranssexuals.

GENDER MYTH #17

People can be categorized as transsexual or nontranssexual—there's no in-between.

FACT: There are nearly as many categories as there are people. There are transsexuals who have had or plan to have one, two, or many surgeries to make their bodies conform more closely to their gender, and those who will never have surgery. Some people feel comfortable expressing both genders. Some refuse to identify as either gender. Some people (male and female) enjoy cross-dressing, but their gender is congruent with their sex. Some conform to gender norms; some flout them. The possibilities are infinite.

GENDER MYTH #20

Transsexualism is unnatural—it is a new problem brought about by sophisticated technology.

FACT: Throughout recorded history there have been people whose gender identity did not match their anatomic sex, and there is evidence that sex-change surgery was performed thousands of years ago. In some cultures, transgendered individuals were held in high esteem as shamans. Today, surgery—from liposuction to sex reassignment—allows many people to have a physical form that is more congruent with their inner sense of themselves and the way they want to appear.

GENDER MYTH #23

Transsexuals have caused trouble at Michigan, resulting in their expulsion.

FACT: According to Festival organizers, transsexuals have been attending MWMF for many years, and 1991 was the first time a transsexual has been expelled. Nancy Burkholder was expelled because she said something that made a woman suspect she was a transsexual, not because her behavior was offensive. In fact, Nancy had participated fully in the 1990 Festival without incident. There is no evidence that transsexuals have ever caused trouble at Michigan. Seeing transsexuals as trouble-makers is once again blaming the victim.

GENDER MYTH #15

Transsexuals are guilty of deception when they don't reveal right away that they are transsexuals.

FACT: There is no standard of disclosure that requires transsexuals to reveal their medical history, just as lesbians do not need to mention their sexual orientation immediately on meeting someone. The circumstances in which this is considered an important fact to know vary from person to person. The individual meeting a transsexual may collude in the "deception" by assuming she or he is a nontranssexual. If it's important to you to know, take responsibility for asking.

GENDER MYTH #18

Women who want to become men have bought into societal hatred of women or are hoping to take advantage of male privilege.

FACT: Female-to-male transsexuals don't want to become men—they *are* men. The reason they want to change their bodies to become more male appearing is because that's how they feel inside. If they gain male privilege, it is tenuous; whatever they have gained is lost if they are discovered to be transsexuals. If transsexualism were based on misogyny, there would be far more female-to-male than male-to-female transsexuals. In fact, their numbers are thought to be about equal.

GENDER MYTH #21

"Real" women, certainly those who belong to the lesbian community, rejoice in their womanhood and have no desire to be men.

FACT: There are people who were assigned as females at birth who identify as men, and many of them become part of the lesbian community. Most would be labeled butch lesbians. Many are afraid to reveal their desire to appear more completely as men, including taking testosterone and undergoing surgery to remove their breasts and construct penises. (Transsexual men are apparently permitted at Michigan because they are "still women" according to the Festival doctrine of immutable sex.)

GENDER MYTH #24

Nontranssexual women at Michigan don't want male-to-female transsexuals here.

FACT: Although Festival organizers claim that the policy excluding transsexuals reflects the sentiment of the community at large, many nontranssexual women support the rights of transsexual women and want them to be included. A survey of over 600 women at the 1992 MWMF showed that 73% of those surveyed thought male-to-female transsexuals should be welcome at the Festival; 23% thought they should not be welcome and 4% were undecided. Only 20% would welcome female-to-male transsexuals, who are apparently permitted.



Thanks

to: **V, Davina Anne Gabriel & Janis Walworth** for providing us with the material about transsexuals at MWMF & Gender Myths.

Kiwi, who acted as our personal researcher.

Mylène & Françoise, who sent us every single article on Le sexe des étoiles, ever published in Québec.

everybody who submitted material, sent letters or expressed their support.

& everyone who purchased our first issue

Donations

Because gendertrash is run by a few starving individuals & funded entirely out of their own pockets, it is essential to ask for donations of money, resources (such as printing, paper, envelopes, address labels, stamps and so on) & equipment (computer, software, etc).

Thank you
from gendertrash

Submission

We are presently working on an upcoming issue about **transsexuality & sexuality**. We'd love to receive your pictures, drawings, thoughts, pillow stories, ideas, concerns (hot or cold), articles & sweet dreams.

Talk to us about love or sex or both.

We especially encourage submissions from transsexuals, who love other transsexuals. Gender-oriented genetics (ie attracted to TS') are also requested to submit.

To all those

liberal genetics

who want to talk about us

being able to go to a genetic wimmin-only festival

but who won't talk about us having emergency shelters

rape crisis centres &

transie-bashing hotlines

that can really support us

at those times when we really need them

i just want to say no you can't

To all those

genetic psychiatrists & their kind

who insist on keeping control over our lives,

who continue to maim us

physically,

emotionally,

socially &

psychically,

in the names of their gender hating theories

stained with our blood

i just want to say no you can't

To all those

really politically liberal genetics &

their organizations

who, realizing that transgendered rights are the next big fad

think that they can appear politically okay

by tacking the word **transgendered** at the end

of their group's title,

while doing absolutely nothing to promote transgendered rights &

everything they can to prevent, hinder &/or

limit acceptance of those rights

i just want to say no you can't

To all those

organizations

that call themselves **queer** in order to appear more inclusive

but are really just for lesbians & gays & their issues only

i just want to say no you can't

Conversation with Tristan

the following conversation was aired as part of Transsexual Perspective, a one-time radio show on CKLN, at the beginning of July, 1993

Jeanne - We would like you to talk about the situation for FTM's in Montréal.

Tristan - Recently, we just started a group here and we tried to make the other FTM's realize that, you know, from a surgical point, it's very hard here to obtain the last surgery.

We tried to make it clear to the guys that if they don't stick together & do something about it, the doctors won't wake up one morning & say: "Hey let's do operations for FTM's".

If we want to improve the quality of the life that we want to live, we'll have to get together to start committees, researching... start to talk about what we want & write down what we need... get our lives better...

The guys now understand why we have to get together once in a while so we can start the process of going ahead a little bit.

Jeanne - How is it in terms of resources right now, whether it's in Montréal, the rest of Canada or the States? Is it getting better?

Tristan - The resources are practically non-existent yet.

We almost don't have anything written on us. You can see that most of the books written, are usually about MTF's. You can get a lot of information about MTF's, but on FTM's, you get just a little tiny piece at the end of the book.

Usually what we see, is after the transition, the new man is going into life and isn't looking back. He doesn't want to have anything to do with it anymore.

What we're trying to explain to them is that they don't need to go back. Helping others has nothing to do with going back to the transition. It's just putting yourself more ahead. It's helping you living your life now. It's helping you not to forget who you are and where you come from.

Involving yourself doesn't mean showing your face to the world. You're showing your face only to people who are looking up to you.

[illegible]

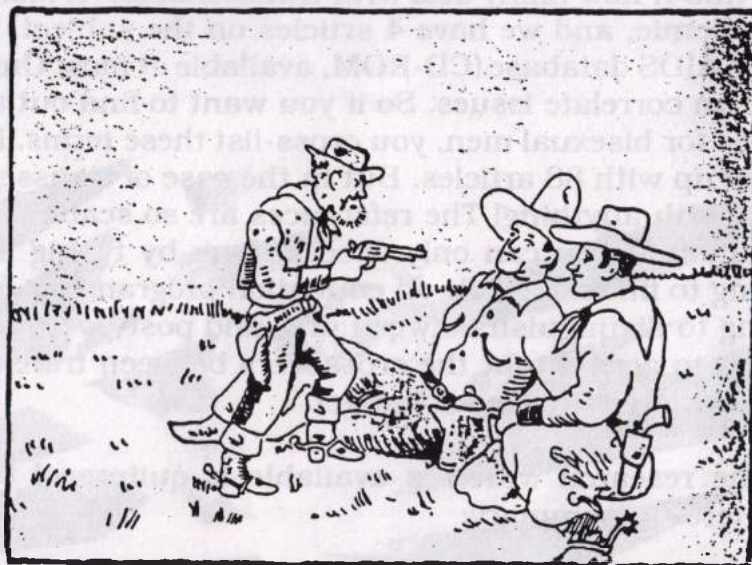
Xanthra - You have a child. Can I ask how old she is?

Tristan - She's 2.

Xanthra - That's a great age. 'Cause she's very young & you don't have to explain to her what you're going through right now.

Tristan - Yes, but you know, eventually I'll have to explain to her what I've been through. It's been a very difficult issue for me, because I was asking myself "am I gonna tell her or not?" The dilemma is still there. Sometimes I feel like a liar and people say "never lie to your child".

She's now starting to ask "where is Mommy?" What do you answer to that... I finally found one: I said "Mom is in our hearts." For now she's taking it, but in a few years, she'll want to know "yes, but where?" I bet when the time will come she'll be ready. I've always believed that when children are old enough to ask questions, they're old enough to have the answers...



"MISTER...JES KEEP YOUR JUNGIAN
ANALYSIS TO YO'SELF...YOU HEAR?"
GROWLED MRS. BOTHAM

courtesy of **Boy's Own**, No. 9, May 1st, 1993

[illegible]

Michigan Womyn's Festival (Continued)



Davina Gabriel in the MWMF communal shower.

photo by unknown festival participant

Upon leaving the festival site, the transsexual womyn set up camp across the road on National Forest land. The following morning, they set up another literature table, along with neon pink banners proclaiming "Transsexual Womyn Expelled From Festival" and "Too Out To Be In!" A steady stream of womyn came out from the festival to spend time with the transsexual womyn and express their support; they brought vegetables, soda, hamburgers, fried chicken, flowers, and encouragement. Throughout the remainder of the festival, the transsexual womyn continued to distribute literature and buttons and to talk with womyn about gender issues and the exclusionary policy. Festival participants who visited the transsexual womyn reported that sentiment inside the festival was overwhelmingly supportive of their participation in WMWF, and there was outrage at their expulsion.

Inside the festival, nontranssexual womyn helped staff the inside literature table, and Walworth conducted two sessions of a workshop entitled "Confronting Transphobia", as well as a workshop on gender and shamanism which had been scheduled to be presented by Gabriel.

MWME Survey Results (continued)

without a clear opinion about inclusion.

Ask them	(50)
Trust them to be honest	(39)
Don't know	(26)
Announce the policy clearly	(21)
Check their genitals	(18)
There is no accurate way to tell	(14)
Driver's license or picture ID	(9)
There is no dignified way to tell	(9)
Self-identification should be sufficient	(9)
We shouldn't try	(8)
Surgery should be complete	(5)
By their behaviour	(4)
Genetic testing	(3)
Birth certificate	(3)
Written exam or questionnaire	(3)
Medical certificate	(3)

any type of testing or objective verification of sex.

Excess of noninvasive invasive esophageal diseases and, additionally, new data

of respondents were against their inclusion, 16% in favour, and 16% undecided.

[illegible]

MOVE DOWN, DOWN TO YOUR HEART... BLESS YOUR HEART... TO BE OPEN, TO BE STRONG WITH PASSION AND MERCY...

YOUR BREASTS, TO BE FREE OF DISEASE, FORMED IN STRENGTH AND BEAUTY! YOUR GENITALS, YOUR WOMB, YOUR SEX.. TO RECEIVE PLEASURE WITHOUT GUILT, TO BRING FORTH LIFE OR NOT WITH RESPONSIBILITY - AS SHE BROUGHT FORTH THE UNIVERSE...

NOW REMEMBER TO ANOINT YOUR KNEES, THEY'VE SERVED YOU SO WELL. THEY HOLD YOU ERECT AND ALLOW YOU TO BEND AND LASTLY YOUR FEET... TO WALK IN BEAUTY, TO BE TRUE. LET NOTHING STOP YOU OR TURN YOU ASIDE.

breathe deeply... charge yourself with strength, health, presence and mindfulness feel your pain or bliss, let whatever you might be feeling be released, cry to the earth mother who sustains and nurtures us all.

OPEN THE CIRCLE - RELEASE THE POWER - IT IS SO!



vis

* - DO NOT USE PERFUMED OIL ON MUCOUS MEMBRANES
IT BURNS LIKE MAD

[illegible]

Hooker of the Year (continued)

I've met a lot of hookers during my travels. And for at least 8 years, I've lived in the hotel scene.

jeanne Since I've known you, you've worked inside. Do you consider this a sign that both your job and your life are more stable now?

Justine Yeah. Because with the phone you have to be more stable. You have to stay home. It's not that I want to. If it was my choice, I'd pick the street over the phone, 'cause it's more fun, more entertaining to go out a lot. But I like money. Basically that's why I work the phone.

jeanne How's money compared to a couple of years ago?

Justine Five years ago, before the recession, it was very, very good; you could make a lot of money. At the beginning of the recession and during the recession, we were not really that affected. But after the recession, now, we are very affected. It always hits us at the very end, not during the recession. But during or after, there are always clients for us out there.

jeanne Where are you from?

Justine Edmonton, Alberta. I was born in a small town. My mother passed away when I was seven. I left home when I was very young. I started to live on my own and don't have any contact with the rest of the family now.

jeanne Ever had any bad tricks?

Justine When I first started, I never had a problem because I was so young and usually always told my clients that I was a transsexual or they knew because of the area I was working in. I never really liked pulling straight dates, 'cause I was so scared all the time and I'm not a big strong person...

But in Vancouver, I had one bad client. He was in the English Bay area. I took him to a parking lot and he tried to rape me but I ran away.

Then when I moved to Toronto, I had one bad client. His kick was to beat up the girls. So I did my service, I was about to leave and then he beat me up with a pipe, really badly. He broke my nose, gave me two black eyes, stuff like that... For the next weeks, I had to wear tons and tons of make-up and I looked really awful... Two black eyes, a busted nose...

[illegible]

In Montréal, I had to cut a guy's balls, just about off...

Over the phones, I haven't had any bad clients.

jeanne

Do you think it's more dangerous out there for TS prostitutes rather than for genetic women or boys?

Justine

Yes, there are lots of girls out there who don't tell the clients what they are,



"In
Montréal,
I had to
cut a
guy's
balls,
just about
off..."

[illegible]

jeanne Do you see that more and more men are specifically attracted to transsexuals, especially since **The Crying Game** came out?

jeanne What do you think about those men who are specifically attracted to us? Do you see them as gay, straight or do you think that their orientation is definitely a separate one?

jeanne I can [laughter]...What about safe sex practices amongst transsexual prostitutes?

jeanne What about AIDS? Have you seen many TS' dying around you, during the last nine years?

jeanne Why do you think TS's party, party, party and are so much into booze and drugs?

[illegible]

Justine Because it's so much harder for transsexuals than for genetic women. We're transsexuals and we have to go out there, fool the clients and pretend to be genetic women. That's why they're always drunk and high on drugs, they feel better, you know what I mean. They can do the job better. But finally after years of partying, you simply get hooked.

Jeanne Is there a lot of competition within TS and TV prostitutes?

Justine Yes, definitely... The girls will always and always fight over clients.

"He's my client!"

"Well I saw him first."

"He was looking at me!"

It'll still be there for 20 years to come and 20 years back. It's a rivalry. Queens will always be queens. There will always be another little younger prettier one coming to Toronto every five years. The queens will always gossip. They always talk over the phone, you know.

Jeanne Now talk to me about that contest you won at Colby's.

Justine Hooker of the Year. It was organized by the Trillium Monarchist Society. It was a camp title. There were five contestants.

jeanne What were you asked to do?

Justine There was a "Question & Answer" part, a "Lingerie or Streetwear" parade, then evening gown parade and a talent show.

jeanne What did you win?

Justine A trip to San Fransisco. I'm going in February. And I'm very happy.

jeanne How do you work now?

Justine I quit working on the streets about 2 years ago and started working the phone. Basically it was just NOW magazine where I got started. Then I expanded into other magazines for a total of nine, which is the best you can do. I just stay home. I just answer the phone. The phones ring and I make a lot of money and I'm very happy now.

[illegible]

Hooker of the Year (continued)

jeanne

What's the recipe of your success?

Justine

(laughter)... the recipe of my success is sex, drugs, rock 'n' roll (laughter)... No... if you want to do what I'm doing, you've got to be very serious. It's dedication more than anything. When you're sleeping at 12 o'clock at night and you hear the phone ring, it's automatically instinctive to get up and answer and try to sell yourself.

You've got to remember that on the street, they see you, they know what you look like. Over the phone they don't know what they're getting. You've got to provoke them, get them into it. You've got to try to sell yourself as best as you can to get them over here.

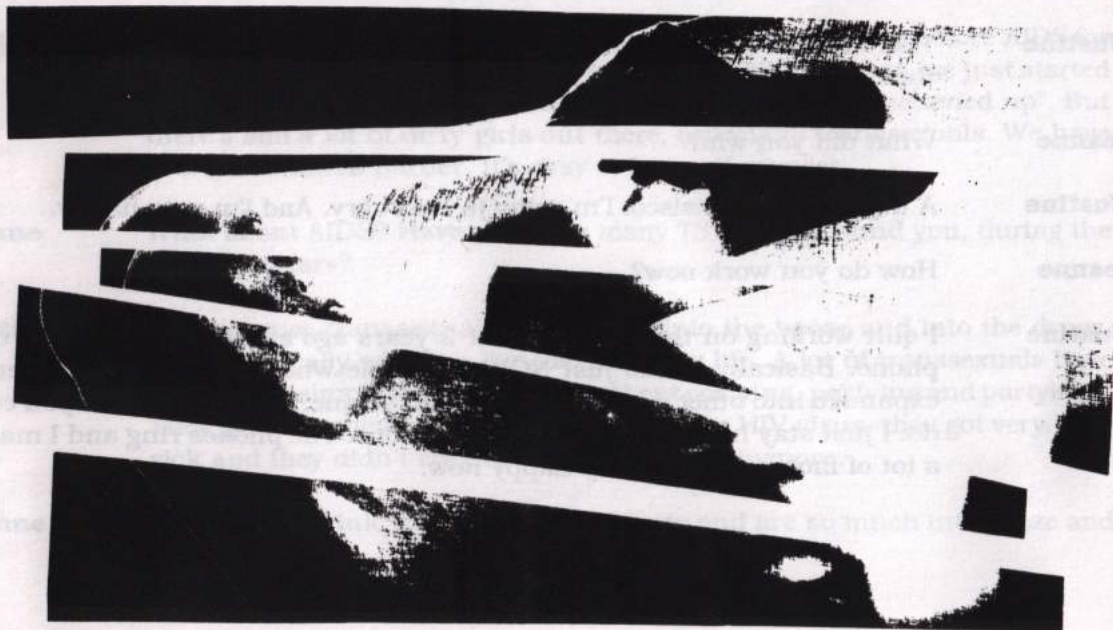
You have to be a disciplined workaholic and try a little harder than others. And staying home, which is the hard part.

jeanne

And the surgery?

Justine

Right now, I'm happy and content the way I am, living as a transsexual, but I would like to live as a female within the next ten years.



January, 1991

The consultation date that I had with him was the 22nd of January. The woman in me was happy. I realized that I was on the threshold of a monumental event in my life, but one that I know is the right event that will make me the way I feel that I should have been from the start. This is **NOT** a sex thing with me, as I know that the surgery is not going to make me 21 or beautiful or change the way that some people look at me or feel about me, as they will not see my genitals.

What I will achieve is a sense of "completeness", of wholeness, of joy. I have to undress every day and it is a very painful thing for me to be confronted, day after day with that thing between my legs, hanging down, reminding me that I have the body of a male, but the soul and feelings of a female.

I will feel better in the bathtub, and will not be afraid to strip in front of women, and it will make me feel better seeing "F" on my driver's license, passport, etc., instead of "M". A male and a female cannot survive in one body. It is impossible. One has to go, and in my case, it has to be the male - **Norman is now Norma, and I have to be Norma all the way.** When the last vestige of maleness goes via the operation, then and **only then** will I feel that I am a "complete" woman. At least, cosmetically.

Tuesday, 22nd. January, 1991

I left Toronto for Montréal at 9:30 am, arriving there at 12:20 pm. I made a call at the Montréal Head Office of the company I had worked for in Toronto to straighten out something, then I went directly to Dr. Menard's office, but he was in surgery when I arrived, so I had to cool my heels for an hour or so before I got to see him. He introduced himself and then we talked. He was a very nice man, and he answered all my questions, and he told me about the operation, and what I could expect. We then agreed on a date for the surgery, and I paid him the required retainer, and I left, floating on air. I was one step closer to my dream. I went back to the station, had something to eat, then caught the last train back to Toronto.

Due to the female hormone therapy and electrolysis, I now pass well as a woman, and I have also had vocal chord surgery to raise the pitch of my voice, plus an Adam's apple shave. As far as my voice is concerned, it is not sounding female, but my throat is still healing, so all I can hope is that when it is healed, my voice will say "female". The date settled on for the surgery was February 25, and I have to stop taking the female hormones until after the operation. The reason is because the hormones change the clotting time of the blood which could be dangerous during the surgery. I start back on them two weeks after the operation. Although the surgery is on the 25th, I have to go down to Montréal on the Sunday, the 24th because I have to check into the clinic the day before.

Sunday, 24th. February, 1991

11:00am. I got a taxi to Union Station in Toronto, riding on air, so to speak. I was on the last leg of my journey from male to female, which due to many of life's twists and turns, had spanned the years from 1956 to the present. The woman in me was happy. Strange to say, though I was as calm as anything. It was because I had every confidence in myself being a member of the female gender, plus every confidence in Dr. Menard's work.

[illegible]

a lovely bouquet of flowers from my TS friend in London, Ontario, Karen. The flowers sure were a welcome sight, and they smelt good too.

Wednesday, 27th. February, 1991

I woke up to breakfast - happy day - I can get out of bed today. I am sure tired of laying on my back all day. After being washed, I got up and went to the bathroom to empty my catheter by myself. The rest of the day consisted on walking, sitting, and laying down. In the afternoon, I met a local TS named D. She puts up TS' who come to Montréal for surgery by Dr. Menard. The clinic closes down on the weekends, and the "new" woman has to stay somewhere - hotel - friends, etc. D had surgery herself three years ago, and she supplies comfort, support, advice, etc. She charges \$50 a day. As it turned out, it was a wise choice. I did not relish staying at a cold hotel with no support, or comfort. We girls have to stick together, you know.

Thursday, 28th. February, 1991

I was sore between the legs, so I stayed in bed all day.

Friday, 1st. March, 1991

After lunch, I was picked up by D. I would be staying with her until Tuesday, the day I would be returning to Toronto, providing that there were no complications from the surgery. I would be checking back with the doctor on Monday. During Thursday and Friday, the local anaesthetics had worn off, and by the time D had picked me up, the pain and soreness in that area was so intense, that when we arrived at the apartment and I was shown to my room, I just curled up on the bed and sobbed my heart out. D came into the room, got on the bed and cradled me in her arms. She said "cry Norma, cry. I understand, but don't worry. The pain will soon be all in the past." Imagine if I had been in a cold hotel room with no one to comfort me. It scares me now to think of it. There were two other problems that night which she solved. I was glad I was with someone who knew what to do. I met a genetic woman there too. I found out afterwards that she lived there with D and that they were man and wife, originally. Who cares, anyway? All I knew and cared about was that they were comfort and support for me in this difficult time of my life.

Saturday, 2nd. March, 1991

Took post-op instructions from D, which made things bearable. Most of the time, I was on my back, taking it easy. I phoned a few biological women friends in Toronto to let them know that I was alright.

Sunday, 3rd. March, 1991

Took it easy - a lot of soreness - watched TV. D had a video of the story of Christine Jorgenson. The movie was very emotional for me, especially a scene in which his homosexual boss tried to rape him, thinking that George (at that time), was gay. I bawled my eyes out, yelling for him to stop attacking George (he did not achieve his purpose). D was highly amused at my reaction. She knew that it was the after effects of the surgery that was making me so emotional. What she did not know is that I despised men. The average male has his brains between his legs.

[illegible]

<<Frankly>> Freeman continuing <<I feel that saying, that we & only we are able to talk about us or transsexuals or write books about us or make movies about us, is not enough by itself: True Transsexual Liberation will require much much more.>>

<<But that is censorship>>

<<And what is it called when a whole group, a whole culture is censored and prevented from either responding to genetic hate material or from even commenting about the subject itself? What you are saying is that it's okay to muzzle an entire group, but it's totally inappropriate to stop even one bigot from disseminating their anti-transsexual propaganda?>>

<<It's a matter of how we organize ourselves. We should never resort to the tactics of bigots, otherwise we are no better than they are.>>

<<That's simply not true: it's not us who have attacked genetics; it's us who are being attacked. This isn't about censorship - it's about being attacked & protecting ourselves from those attacks. I have no problem restricting the power and privilege of any genetic, who use that same power & privilege to try & destroy us. Bigotry is bigotry - it's not a right. It's not okay - it is disgusting & it needs to be stopped. What you & others like you are saying is that transsexuals are worthless.>>

<<Well I totally disagree. What you're preaching is the same as those genetics that you despise. And one other thing, by not censoring their work, this anti-transsexual propaganda, as you call it, is brought into the open and not hidden.>>

<<And what good does that do? Great, so we can see the bigotry. Why, do we need more proof that it exists? At what point does it become too much? When do we say <<no that's enough, we're not going to take any more>>? When we're all dead?>>

<<exactly>> Turquoise again.

<<We have all>> Freeman continuing <<every single one of us, suffered enough & put up with enough. It's time to stop being so goddamned nice about it & say **fuck off & die.**>>

<<I agree, but we need to have it out in the open where we can confront it and show it for what it is.>>

<<That would be nice in a perfect world, but this isn't anything like a utopia, where everyone respects everybody else, and acts according to nice, neat logical rules and so on. We live in a real world, where power means everything, where only power and not logical

<<Some genetics. Some genetics aren't trying to hurt us. I know lots of genetics who aren't trying to attack us.>>

<<Genetocracy sounds like an invented word.>>

<<Sorry to interrupt you both>> host <<but we have a caller from Toronto. This is Tim Finland. Go ahead>>

<<I have a question for you: are you a transsexual?>> Freeman

<<In other words, you're not. My answer to you is that you don't know what the fuck you're talking about. You have no knowledge of what it's like to be a transsexual and therefore what we go through. Not only that but you have your own channels to express your viewpoints and I suggest you use them and not ours. Goodbye>>

<<Good, then it shows that we are accomplishing something, because politeness won't get us anything, except killed. As I have said many times before, I don't discuss our issues

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TRANS-P.O.R.S. is a community service created by Dr Yvon Ménard and the National Foundation on Transsexualism. They provide room and board, with special care and support for people (both FTM and MTF) coming to Montréal for SRS surgery or any other adjusting surgery. For more information, contact TRANS-P.O.R.S. at the above address.

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